Setting up of LPG Terminal at Kandla Port

*133. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited's four year old proposal to set up a Liquified Petroleum Gas Terminal at Kandla Port, to handle LPG imports, is still hanging fire;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when the clearance to the proposal is likely to be accorded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Government have accorded approval on 10-9-1993 to Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, for setting up of LPG import facilities at Mangalore and to Indian Oil Corporation Limited, on 30-4-1993 for setting up of LPG import facilities at Kandla.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

WTO Chief

*134. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had been represented in the recently held meeting for the selection/election of Chief of WTO;

(b) whether a conflict is going on between Euro-Union and the USA;

(c) whether India could not take any definite stand on this issue; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) India is a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and the decision on the election of the Director General of WTO is taken by consensus amongst its members.

(b) to (d) As of October 1994, there were three candidates in the contest, i.e., former Mexican President Mr. Carlos Salinas De Gortari backed by the North and Latin American countries, former Italian Trade Minister, Ambassador Renato Ruggiero supported by the European Union and some African, Carribean and Pacific (ACP) countries and Dr. Chulsu Kim, former Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy of Republic of Korea supported by the Asian countries. Then, the Mexican candidate withdrew leaving the choice between Ambassador Ruggiero and Dr. Chulsu Kim.

Following the withdrawal of the Mexican candidate, the Chairman of the WTO Contracting Parties is ascertaining the support enjoyed by these two candidates among the WTO members. Certain countries, however, have so far not clearly indicated their position and as a result, the election process is taking time.

India has taken a consistent and clear stand of supporting the Asian candidate, Dr. Chulsu Kim. India, like many other members, however, desires that the new Chief of the World Trade Organisation should be elected by consensus so that the Director General secures the support of all members in the performance of the WTO's new and very important tasks.